

Samuel Mayes, July 31, 1828, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

CERTIFICATE OF SAMUEL MAYES.

Columbia, July 31, 1828.

Being informed that a report prejudicial to the character of Mrs. Jackson, the mother of General Andrew Jackson, is secretly circulated in some parts of the United States to injure his election to the presidency; and being requested by a friend of General Jackson to state any circumstances within my knowledge which would tend to throw light on the subject of that report, I state as follows; That in 1785–6, as well as I recollect, General Jackson and myself were school fellows in York County, South Carolina, which was about twenty five miles from the residence of Mrs. Jackson. At the same time there were at school several young men from her immediate neighbourhood, who were intimately acquainted with young Jackson, being boys bread up in the society of each other. Neither at that time, before, or since have I ever heard, until I heard of the present rumour, any thing whatever in any-wise prejudicial to the fair character and good standing of that lady. General Jackson's standing whilst at school was unexceptionable. My opinion is, that if the character of Mrs. Jackson had not been fair and good that I would have heard some thing about it; especially if it had been of the character stated in the report, of which, I have lately heard for the first time. Given under my hand,